

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

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S E C R E T SANAA 543

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, MPS, MASS, YE, YS, SA, UK, US

SUBJECT: YARG REQUEST FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE

ADDIS ABABA FOR AMB CRAWFORF

REF: STATE 061239; TRIPOLI 418; SANAA 539

SUMMARY. PRES IRYANI TOLD ME YARG HAD CONFRONTED PDRY WITH EVIDENCE AND HAD RECEIVED DENIAL. HAMDI- HUMRAN MISSION UNDERWAY. SOME SAG MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS ARRIVED, BUT NO SAG RESPONSE YET TO REQUEST. DESPITE STRONG DISTRUST OF PDRY. YARG MOOD NOW SEEMS TO BE PRUDENT PREPARATION RATHER THAN ANXIOUS EXAACTATION. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTION AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO RESPOND TO PRIMIN.

1. PRES IRYANI RECEIVED ME IN TAIZ AT 11:00 AM APRIL 4. I REVIEWED BRIEFLY MY DISUSSIONS WITH PRIMIN HAJRI AND CIC COL. IRYANI. USG WAS STUDYING DETAILED YARG REPORT THROUGH ALL ITS CHANNELS TO ASSESS IT AND WILL INFORM YARG OF ITS CONCLUSIONS. AT SAME TIME, AS ARAB PROVERB NOTES, PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE. TIME TO RESPOND IN MILITARY SUPPLY FIELD EXTREMELY SHORT. USG THEREFORE FELT FIRST LINE OF PREVENTIVE DEFENSE

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WAS ACTIVE DIPLOMACY, ESP. WITH FRIENDLY ARAB STATES AND ARAB LEAGUE. THIS WOULD INSURE CONTINUED ARAB SUPPORT FOR YAR, PROVE ITS PEACEFUL INTENTIONS, AND COULD CAUSE PDRY TO CALL OFF ANY PLANS IT MIGHT HAVE. COL. IRYANI HAD TOLD ME THAT YARG WAS PLANNING TO SEND MINSTATE HUMRAN AND DEP CIC COL. HAMDI ON JUST SUCH A DIPLOMATIC MISSION. COULD PRESIDENT TELL ME WHAT LATEST PLANS WERE.

2. PRES IRYANI RESPONDED THAT, FIRST, YARG HAD DECIDED ON DIRECT APPROACH. HE HAD SENT HIS PERSONAL MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR UNITY MATTERS, COL. ABDALLAH RA'Y (OFFICIALLY YARG MILATT IN MOSCOW) TO ADEN TO CONFRONT PDRY WITH ACCUSATION OF PLANNED ATTACK. RA'Y HAS RETURNED AND REPORTED THAT PDRY LEADERS HAD DENIED MASSINGS HAD ANY AGGRESSIVE ATTENTIONS. IN WEST THEY WERE CONFINED TO PERIM AND WERE DUE TO REPORTS OF ISRAELI PRESENCE IN RED SEA ISLANDS. OTHER TROOP CONCENTRATIONS TO EAST WERE DUE TO FEAR OF SAUDIS. PRES. IRYANI'S COMMENT TO THIS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT YARG CANNOT TRUST WORD OF EXTREMIST PDRY LEADERS WHO HAVE NO CONCEPT OF TRUTH OR HONOR. HE DID AGREE WITH MY OBSERVATION THAT RA'Y MISSION HAD BEEN EXCELLENT MOVE SINCE PDRY KNEW NOW THAT IT COULD NOT SURPRISE YAR IF THAT HAD BEEN ITS INTENTION.

3. REGARDING HUMRAN AND HAMDI MISSION, PRES SAID THAT FORMER LEAVING SAME DAY FOR SYRIA AND IRAQ. HAMDI LEAVING APRIL 7 FOR EGYPT, LIBYA, ALGERIA, AND POSSIBLY SUDAN. PURPOSE IS TWOFOLD: TO COUNTER RECENT ANTI-YARG VISITS OF PDRY MINISTERS MUTI' AND KHAMIRI AND TO BRIEF THESE GOVTS ON TROOP MASSINGS AND INVASION THREAT. IN RESPONSE MY QUERY ABOUT ROLE FOR ARAB LEAGUE, PRES SAID HAMRAN WOULD STOP FIRST IN CAIRO TO BRIEF SALIM AL-YAFA'I. IN RESPONSE FURTHER QUERY ABOUT INFORMING ETHIOPIA AND IRAN, HE SAID YARG DELEGATION, WHICH RETURNED TWO DAYS EARLIER HAD INFORMED GOI. HE DID NOT MENTION IEG.

4. I THEN MENTIONED THAT I KNEW SAG HAD BEEN INFORMED. WERE THERE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

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PRES SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE YET FROM SAG.

SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD ARRIVED IN HODEIDA. HE CONFIRMED MY GUESS THAT THESE WERE ARMORED VEHICLES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY LAST FALL, BUT HELD UP BY CEASE- FIRE.

5. PRES ALSO TOLD ME, AS ASIDE, THAT RAWYY# HAD OBSERVED NUMBER OF SOVIET WARSHIPS IN ADEN HARBOR AND SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED ASHORE. RA' Y HAD REMONSTRATED WITH PDRY LEADERS AND HAD BEEN ZBLD PERSONNEL THERE DUE TO SOVIET NEED FOR " REPROVISIONING CAPABILITY."

6. IN CLOSING PRES REITERATED THAT YARG DID NOT TRUST PDRY AND MUST PREPARE ITSELF FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK. HE DID AGREE THAT SITUATION SEEMED A LITTLE BETTER.

7 COMMENT. DESPITE COL. RA' Y REPUTATION AS A SUSPECTED LEFTIST, I BELIEVE YARG WISELY TOOK BULL BY HORNS IN CONFRONTING PDRY WITH ACCUSATION. ALTHOUGH DISTRUST REMAINS STRONG, ATTITUDE OF YARG, BASED ON PRESIDENT' S COMMENTS, SEEMS NOW TO HAVE SHIFTED FROM ANXIOUS EXPECTATION TO PRUDENT PREPARATION. HAMDI, AS BLUNT MILITARY MAN, SHOULD MAKE GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIS TRAVELS. HUMRAN, ALTHOUGH HIS LEFTIST CREDENTIALS SHOULD MAKE HIM MORE ACCEPTABLE IN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD, IS STRONGLY SUSPECTED OF PRO- PDRY SYMPATHIES, BUT HIS VISIT IS LESS IMPORTANT OF TWO.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT' S INSTRUCTIONS AT APPROPRIATE TIME FOR RESPONSE TO PRIMIN.
NEWTON

NOTE BY OC/ T: SANAA 543. # AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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